

THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Amended) A computing system including an email system connected to an
2 email network using the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) protocol
3 ~~characterized in that the said system includes, the computing system comprising:~~

AI 4 (a) ~~means for the sender~~ an additional parameter in the SMTP protocol to
5 specify alternate recipients of an email message to be used in case the
6 mail email system ~~can not~~ cannot deliver the email message to the an
7 original recipient, and

8 ~~(b) means for said email system to deliver the message to the specified~~
9 ~~alternate recipients in case it is unable to deliver~~ the email message
10 cannot be delivered to the original recipient.

1 2. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 wherein ~~said means for the sender to~~
2 ~~specify the alternate recipient is by addition of~~ the extended parameter is an
3 ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter in said SMTP protocol.

1 3. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 ~~wherein said means for delivering~~
2 ~~the message to the specified alternate recipients~~ 2 wherein the ARCPT
3 parameter is an extension to the SMTP ~~server to include automatic forwarding~~
4 ~~of protocol, the ARCPT parameter to automatically forward~~ the message to the
5 alternate recipients in case of inability to deliver to original recipients.

4. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 ~~wherein said means for specifying the alternate recipient using the said 2 wherein the~~ ARCPT parameter can also be used by the recipient or the system administrator of the recipient server to forward emails to another address and the alternate recipient on the recipient server shall hold priority over the one already in the email specified by the sender.

5. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 further comprising:

(a) ~~means~~ a second extended keyword to an SMTP protocol parameter for the sender to specify notification by said email system of successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the original recipient, and

~~(b) means for said email system~~ to notify the sender based on the delivery of the message to the alternate recipients.

6. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 5 wherein ~~said means for the sender to specify the notification is by addition of~~ the second extended keyword is an ALTERNATE keyword, and the SMTP parameter is to the NOTIFY parameter.

7. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 5 wherein ~~said means for the said email system to notify the sender~~ the second extended keyword is an extension of the SMTP ~~server~~ protocol to include sending of an email message to the sender in case of non-delivery of the message to the alternate recipients.

8. (Amended) A system as ~~claimed~~ in claim 5 wherein said extended SMTP protocol includes:

- (a) ARCPT ~~keyword~~ parameter for specifying alternate recipients, and
- (b) ALTERNATE keyword in the NOTIFY parameter, ~~for specifying~~ to specify notification in case of delivery to alternate recipients.

9. (Amended) In a computing system including an email system connected to an email network using the SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) protocol, a method for specifying alternate email recipients comprising:

- (a) ~~specification of~~ providing an additional parameter in the SMTP protocol that specifies alternate recipients by the sender of an email message to be used in case the mail system ~~cannot~~ cannot deliver the email message to the original recipient,
- ~~(b) delivery of and delivering the email message to the specified alternate recipients by the email system in case it is unable to deliver to the original recipient.~~

10. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 9 wherein ~~said specification of the additional parameter in the SMTP protocol specifying~~ the alternate recipient is by an ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter. ~~in said SMTP protocol.~~

11. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 9 wherein ~~said delivery of the~~
~~message to the specified alternate recipients is an extension to the SMTP server~~
~~to include the step of delivering the email message further comprises~~ automatic
forwarding of the email message to the alternate recipients in case of inability to
deliver to ~~original recipients~~ the original recipient.

12. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 9 wherein ~~said specification of the~~
~~alternate recipient using said ARCPT parameter can also be provided by 10,~~
~~wherein the step of providing an additional parameter in the SMTP protocol~~
~~further comprises the recipient or the system administrator of the recipient~~
~~server to forward emails to another address and the alternate recipient on the~~
recipient server ~~shall hold~~ having priority over the ~~one already~~ the original
recipient in the email specified by the sender.

13. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 9 further comprising:
(a) ~~specification by the sender~~ specifying of notification by said email system
of the successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver
to the original recipient, and
(b) ~~notification to~~ notifying the sender by the email system ~~based on~~ of the
non-delivery of the message to the alternate recipients.

1 14. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 13 wherein ~~said specification of the~~
 2 ~~notification is by addition of ALTERNATE keyword~~ the step of providing
 3 notification is specifying an ALTERNATE extension to the NOTIFY parameter.

1 15. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 13 wherein ~~said notification to the~~
 2 ~~sender is by an extension of the SMTP server to notification to~~ the step of
 3 notifying the sender by the email system ~~based on~~ of the non-delivery of the
 4 message to the alternate recipients ~~include~~ further comprises sending of an
 5 email message to the sender in case of non-delivery of the message to the
 6 alternate recipients.

1 16. (Amended) A method as ~~claimed~~ in claim 13 further comprising:
 2 (a) extending the SMTP protocol with an ARCPT keyword for specifying
 3 alternate recipients,
 4 (b) extending the SMTP protocol with an ALTERNATE keyword in the
 5 NOTIFY parameter, for specifying notification in case of delivery to
 6 alternate recipients.

1 17. (Amended) A computer program product comprising computer readable program
 2 code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for causing
 3 a computer to send email to alternate email recipients in case of inability to
 4 deliver to an original recipient comprising

(a) computer readable program code ~~means~~ configured for extending the SMTP protocol to enable enabling the sender to specify alternate recipients of an email message to be used in case the mail system ~~cannot~~ cannot deliver the message to the original recipient, and to cause

~~(b) computer readable program code means configured for causing the said email mail system to deliver the email message to the specified alternate recipients in case it is unable to deliver to the original recipient.~~

18. (Amended) A computer program product as ~~claimed~~ in claim 17 wherein said computer readable program code ~~means~~ configured for extending the SMTP protocol is specifying the alternate recipient ~~is by addition of~~ is an ARCPT (Alternate Recipient) parameter in said SMTP protocol.

19. (Amended) A computer program product as ~~claimed~~ in claim 17 wherein said computer readable program code configured for ~~delivering the message to the specified alternate recipients is an extension to the SMTP server to include~~ extending the SMTP protocol thereby causing the mail system to deliver the email message to the specified alternate recipients further comprises automatic forwarding of the email message to the alternate recipients in case of not delivering to original recipients.

20. (Amended) A computer program product as ~~claimed~~ in claim ~~17~~ 18 wherein said computer readable program code ~~means~~ configured for ~~enabling~~ extending the SMTP protocol by the addition of the ARCPT parameter enables the recipient or system administrator of a server of the recipient ~~server to specify an alternate email address using ARCPT parameter to forward emails~~ email messages to another address with the alternate recipient on the server of the recipient ~~server~~ holding priority over the ~~one already~~ recipient in the email specified by the sender.

21. (Amended) A computer program product as ~~claimed~~ in claim 17 further comprising:

(a) computer readable program code ~~means~~ configured to extend the SMTP protocol to enable ~~for enabling~~ the sender to specify notification by said email mail system of the a successful delivery to the alternate recipients on failure to deliver to the original recipient, and

~~(b) computer readable program code means configured for causing to cause~~ said email mail system to notify the sender based on the non-delivery of the email message to the alternate recipients.

22. (Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 21 wherein said computer readable program code ~~means~~ configured for specifying the notification is by addition of ALTERNATE keyword to the NOTIFY parameter.

1 23. (Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 21 wherein said
2 computer readable program code ~~means configured for notify the sender~~ is an
3 extension of the SMTP server to ~~include sending of~~ send an email message to
4 the sender in case of non-delivery of the message to the alternate recipients.

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1 24. (Amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 21 further
2 comprising: computer readable program code that extends the SMTP protocol
3 with:
4 (a) ARCPT keyword for specifying alternate recipients,
5 (b) ALTERNATE keyword in the NOTIFY parameter, for specifying
6 notification in case of delivery to alternate recipients.
